

Appl. No. : 10/066,414
Filed : February 1, 2002

IN THE CLAIMS:

11. (Original) The exhaust system for an engine having a cylinder block having a first cylinder head connected thereto and cooperating therewith to define a first cylinder bank containing at least one cylinder and a second cylinder head connected thereto and cooperating therewith to define a second cylinder bank containing at least one cylinder, said first and second banks arranged generally in a "V" shape and having a valley therebetween, a main exhaust passage defined within said valley by said cylinder heads and cylinder block and extending through said valley to an end of said engine and at least one passage extending from each cylinder through its respective cylinder head inwardly to said main exhaust passage, said engine including a lubricant passage and a coolant passage extending through said valley, said coolant passage being positioned between said lubricant passage and said main exhaust passage.

14. The outboard motor of claim 13, wherein said engine has a v-type configuration.

15. The outboard motor of claim 13 further comprising a manifold interposed between said cylinder block exhaust passage and said cylinder head passage.

16. An outboard motor comprising an internal combustion engine, an exhaust guide plate being positioned generally below said internal combustion engine and including an exhaust guide passage, said internal combustion engine comprising a generally vertically extending crankshaft and a cylinder block having a pair of cylinder banks inclined relative to one another, each of said pair of cylinder banks including at least one cylinder, a cylinder head assembly enclosing said cylinder, said cylinder head assembly comprising at least one exhaust port and at least one corresponding exhaust runner, said exhaust runner being in selective communication with said exhaust port and being formed between said exhaust port and an exhaust manifold such that said engine includes two exhaust manifolds that extend in generally vertical directions, a pair of connecting exhaust conduits communicating with said exhaust manifolds and extending toward said cylinder block, said cylinder block also having a pair of passages formed therein that are in registry with said connecting exhaust conduits, said passages merging within said cylinder block into an exhaust discharge, and said exhaust discharge being coupled to said exhaust guide passage.

17. An outboard motor comprising a first cylinder bank and a second cylinder bank, said first cylinder bank and said second cylinder bank being inclined relative to one another and

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jointly forming at least a portion of a cylinder block, a crankcase cover connected to a portion of said cylinder block and defining a crankcase chamber, a generally vertically extending crankshaft extending through said crankcase chamber between said crankcase cover and said cylinder block, a first cylinder head assembly being attached to said first cylinder bank and a second cylinder head assembly being attached to said second cylinder bank, a first exhaust manifold being connected to said first cylinder head assembly, a second exhaust manifold being connected to said second cylinder head assembly, an exhaust passage being formed in said cylinder block and comprising a first branch, a second branch and a convergent portion that combines said first branch and said second branch, and said first and second exhaust manifolds separately communicating with said first and second branches respectively.

18. The outboard motor of claim 17, wherein said first and second exhaust manifolds communicate with said first and second branches through a first connection passage and a second connection passage respectively.

19. (Cancelled)

20. The outboard motor of claim 17, wherein said first and second exhaust manifolds are positioned between said first and second cylinder head assemblies.

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COMMENTS

Claims 1-18 and 20 remain pending in the present application. Claims 11, 14-18, and 20 have been re-submitted so as to conform to the rules regarding amendments made in reissue applications.

The claims set forth above include underlining to show the changes made relative to the **issued patent**, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.173(b)(2).

The outstanding Notice of Non-Responsiveness indicates that the version of Claim 11 submitted in the Amendment filed July 23, 2003 failed to include a comma between the words "therebetween" and "a main". Thus, Applicants have resubmitted a full copy of Claim 11 above including the missing comma and the other corrections made by way of the Certificate of Correction issued August 21, 2001. Because Claim 11 has not been changed by way of the present reissue application, no underlining or bracketing appears therein.

The outstanding Notice also indicates that Claims 14-18 and 20 were not properly reproduced with underlining in the original reissue application, and that the amendment of May 23, 2003, which included proper underlining of these claims, was not entered. Thus, as requested by the Examiner, Claims 14-18, and 20 have been reproduced above including the underlining required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.173(b). The text of Claims 14-18 and 20 set forth above is identical to that appearing in the original reissue application. Thus, Claims 14-18 and 20 do not include parenthetical status indicators because they are not "NEW" in that they were not added by way of an amendment. Rather, Claims 14-18 and 20 were incorporated into the specification of the original reissue application.

Finally, Applicants reassert the comments set forth in the Amendment filed July 23, 2003 in response to the outstanding rejections set forth in the Office Action dated November 20, 2002.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims and specification. Accordingly, early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is most earnestly solicited.

The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to all of the rejections in the case and to place the claims in condition for immediate allowance. Nevertheless, if any undeveloped

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issues remain or if any issues require clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's attorney in order to resolve such issue promptly.

Respectfully submitted,

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